AAMVA Mourns the Passing of John Grim

John Frederick Grim who has spent years as a contributing member of the AAMVA community, passed away over the weekend. John was born November 19, 1956 and grew up in Ellicott City, Maryland. He moved frequently and traveled widely during his successful career in sales, with business trips taking him around the world. He made Mechanicsville, Virginia, his home when he married his wife, Karen (retired Assistant Commissioner of the Virginia DMV) in 2003. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Virginia Home for Boys and Girls and Bon Secours Hospice House. Visitation was held on Monday, August 9, at Nelsen Funeral Home (Ashland chapel), and a funeral Mass was held Tuesday, August 10 at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Ashland. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at NelsenAshland.com for the Grim family. Read more here.

Jurisdiction Response to COVID-19

Click here to view consolidated information and see how motor vehicle administrations are handling driver licensing and vehicle registration. This document will be updated with the most current information on our homepage.

Motor Vehicle Industry Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

Below is a selection of news articles regarding the effects of coronavirus on the motor vehicle community.

**COVID-19 | NATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE**

- [Canada Reopens Its Border for Vaccinated US Visitors](#)
- [Jobless Claims Near Pandemic Low as Economy Strengthens](#)
- [Catalytic Converter Theft Wave Growing Worse](#)

**COVID-19 | REGION 1 NEWS COVERAGE**

- [Pandemic Set Off Deadly Rise in Speeding That Hasn’t Stopped](#)
News sponsor by contacting Rob Stershic, 703.908.2825.

- MDOT MVA Reminds Customers That Branches Are Open by Appointment Only as It Expands Accessibility (Maryland)
- How Traffic Has Changed Through the Pandemic (Massachusetts)
- Bowser Mandates COVID-19 Vaccine for All DC Government Workers, Teachers (Washington, DC)

COVID-19 | REGION 2 NEWS COVERAGE

- Judge Rules Florida Can’t Ban Norwegian Cruise Line ‘Vaccine Passport’
- Who’s Vaccinated, Masking in Local Government? How Houston Agencies Are Handling Abbott’s Orders (Texas)
- Virginia DMV To Offer Drop-off Title Application Services
- DMV Continues Expanding Online Services to Customers With New Option (Virginia)

Visit cdc.gov for more information on COVID-19, guidance, press releases, press kits, and more.

REGION 1 NEWS

Win a Free Lifetime Pass To the NY State Fair With DMV Contest (New York)
The New York State Fair and the state Department of Motor Vehicles are running a contest this year to give away a free lifetime pass to the fair. Anyone who orders a custom New York State Fair license plate during this year’s fair, which runs from Aug. 20 to Sept. 6, will be entered to win the pass. You don’t even have to attend the fair to be eligible. Read more at syracuse.com.

House Panel Hears ‘Controversial’ Bill That Would Grant Drivers Licenses To Undocumented Immigrants (Pennsylvania)
A Republican-controlled House panel held a rare hearing on a Democratic-sponsored bill, which would allow undocumented immigrants to get a Pennsylvania driver’s license. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Danilo Burgos, D-Philadelphia, would eliminate a 9/11-era law barring non-citizens from obtaining a license until the state Department of Transportation established their “lawful presence in the United States and this Commonwealth.” Read more at penncapital-star.com.

REGION 2 NEWS

Oklahoma ID Megacenters Expand Services To Include Out-of-State Transfers, Learner Permits
Oklahoma’s REAL ID megacenters are now expanding to include more services than just renewal and replacement. You can now go to the megacenters from out-of-state transfers, some learner permits, and original identification cards. Read more at okfox.com.
Katy Mother, Son Were Running Multi-Million Dollar Luxury Car Theft Ring in Fort Bend County, Sheriff Says (Texas)
A tip about a stolen car in a Fort Bend County subdivision led investigators to a multi-million dollar luxury vehicle theft ring, according to the Fort Bend County sheriff. FBCSO deputies arrested a Katy mother and son who they say were stealing luxury cars and reselling them through at least six auto sales businesses. Read more at khou.com.

Texas Communities Combat Crime Thanks to New Grant Funding
Auto burglars and thieves better watch out! Today, the Motor Vehicle Crime Prevention Authority (MVCPA) awarded $13.6 million in grants to reduce and prevent motor vehicle crime across the state. These grants provide support for motor vehicle theft and fraud-related motor vehicle crime enforcement teams. These specialized investigators identify trends, use specialized equipment and maintain statewide coordination to combat crime. Read more at eparisextra.com.

DMV Launches Campaign To Promote Seat Belt Safety (Virginia)
The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) wants to decrease unrestrained traffic injuries and fatalities with its Local Heroes campaign. This campaign encourages passengers to wear their seat belts..."We are proud to debut this new 2021 Local Heroes campaign, which highlights the dedication our first responders have to highway safety," said DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb, the Governor’s Highway Safety Representative. Read more at wfxrvt.com.

With Classes Starting Next Week, Motorists Urged To Obey School Bus Laws (Kansas)
With classes starting next week in the Topeka area, motorists are being urged to pay attention to school bus laws. Kansas Highway Patrol troopers on Wednesday were inspecting buses and other vehicles that will hit the roads starting next Thursday, Aug. 12, when classes will begin in Auburn-Washburn Unified School District 437. Read more at wibw.com.

New Autonomous Car Training Provides Hands-on Experience (Ohio)
Since the early 1950s universities and automotive companies have been doing research on driving assistance features and autonomous cars. And now automotive professors from across the country are traveling to Dayton to learn more about the latest technology. Read more at spectrumnews1.com.

Ohio Cracking Down on Distracted Driving
The Ohio Traffic Safety Council voted to support a bill that will expand upon existing texting-and-driving laws in Ohio. The Ohio Traffic Safety Council voted on Wednesday to support a bill that would make it illegal to use a phone while driving. House Bill 283 was introduced in May and would broaden existing texting-and-driving laws. Read more at wyso.org.
Wrong-Way Thermal Cameras Are Being Installed on Several Valley Freeways (Arizona)
It has been more than three years since the Arizona Department of Transportation began using a wrong-way vehicle alert system along a 15-mile stretch of the I-17...This was a pilot program and since then, ADOT has utilized what they refer to as the "key components of that system" on other freeways. Read more at abc15.com.

Consumer Warning: Stolen Vehicles Being Fraudulently Sold Online as Used Cars (California)
The California Department of Motor Vehicles is alerting Californians to be on the lookout for unscrupulous used car sellers who are luring unsuspecting consumers into buying stolen vehicles online. This warning comes after DMV investigators report an increase in this type of illegal activity, which is fueled by a shortage of new vehicles for sale, and consumers willing to pay more for used ones. Read more at smdp.com.

Cal OES on Protecting Important Records During an Emergency (California)
Most disasters happen in the blink of an eye. That’s why it’s important to take appropriate measures before they happen to ensure your family is prepared. Among other safety steps like setting up alerts, making an evacuation plan and packing a “go” or “stay” bag, it’s also important to carefully store and protect vital documents. The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has put together helpful tips and resources on storing and protecting important records. Read more at goldrushcam.com.

Nation’s Largest Self-Driving Electric Shuttle Network Launches (Colorado)
The country’s biggest fleet of low-speed, self-driving electric shuttles hit the road on Tuesday in a major step forward for the electric vehicle sector. The unveiling here adds momentum to an industry that is poised to get a significant boost from the Biden administration and Democrats in Congress. Read more at thehill.com.

MADD Canada Bus Gives VR Experience of Drunk Driving To Educate Regina Residents (Saskatchewan)
The SmartWheels bus presented by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Canada is making its way through Regina, educating residents on the dangers of impaired driving. The bus was parked outside the legislative building on Saturday to give people a chance to see what impaired driving looks like, with the help of virtual reality (VR). Read more at globalnews.ca.

Canceled Personalized License Plate Letters Sent in Error to Washington Residents
The Spokane County Auditor’s Office is urging residents to ignore a letter sent by state officials Aug. 4 erroneously informing them their personalized license plates have been canceled. The Washington Department of Licensing sent the letters in error following an upgrade of its vehicle licensing system last month, Thomas Charlson, a spokesman for the agency, said Tuesday. Read more at spokesman.com.
FMCSA To Streamline Household Goods Moving Regulations
The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration has announced plans to update regulations for transportation of household goods to reduce costs for movers and mitigate the growing problem of fraud in consumer moves...FMCSA said it will accept public comments on the proposal through Oct. 12. Read more at ttnews.com.

FMCSA Asks 14,000 Medical Examiners to Post Missing Results
Six months after a critical Department of Transportation inspector general audit, federal regulators are asking an estimated 14,000 medical examiners to submit the missing results of truck driver exams they conducted during a seven-month outage of the federal National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners due to an attempted hack. Read more at ttnews.com.

Study Calculates Impact of Hands-Free Cellphone Laws
A study led by researchers at the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children’s Hospital found that “hands-free” cellphone laws are associated with fewer driver deaths. However, more targeted cellphone laws – such as calling-only and texting-only bans, among others – are not. Read more at aashtojournal.org.

Verify: Yes, if Passed, the Infrastructure Bill Would Eventually Mandate Alcohol Monitoring Systems in Cars
On social media, there are a lot of claims about what's in the massive infrastructure bill. This includes a claim getting a lot of attention about alcohol monitoring systems, like breathalyzers, being mandated in new cars. The Verify team looked at the language in the bill to get a better understanding of this policy, and spoke with experts for context. Read more at wusa9.com.

Watch a Driverless Truck Operate 100 Percent Autonomously in Highway Traffic
It's not every day that you get to see a self-driving semi-truck going down the highway, but it's most likely going to become a regular thing in the near future. The autonomous vehicle craze that began not that many years ago is becoming a reality, and the trucking industry is at the top of the list. Read more at autoweek.com.

Truckload Carriers Association Forms Search Committee To Find New President
The Truckload Carriers Association formed a search committee Aug. 10 to find a replacement for President John Lyboldt, who is retiring. The trade association focuses on the truckload segment of the motor carrier industry. Lyboldt has been TCA president since December 2015. He informed the association of his decision to retire late last spring and set his departure date for April 1, 2022. Read more at ttnews.com.

First Look at Tesla’s New Vision-Based Autopark Feature
Tesla has started updating its Autopark feature with its new Tesla Vision computer vision system, which now powers Autopilot and its Full Self-Driving Beta. Like many other premium (and even non-premium) vehicles, Tesla vehicles have been equipped with an autonomous parking feature called “Autopark.”...Recently, Tesla has been moving its Autopilot features to its vision-only system. Read more at electrek.co.
TWITTER NEWS

Stay on top of the chatter in the MVA and LE community on social media. You may be surprised at what you're missing! Here are a few highlights of last weeks' activity.

MoDOT @MoDOT

Do you have a teen driver? Here's an opportunity for them to get some free, hands-on defensive driving training from a Top Fuel drag racing champion.

Details and more in this week's edition of Express Lane: conta.cc/2Uj7CnS

Nevada DMV @NevadaDMV

"Going to DMV for license plate!! This might actually be legal. A new law allows you to drive a recently-purchased vehicle for up to three days without a movement permit. You must have insurance and proof of ownership. See all the new traffic laws at dmvnv.com/dltrafficlaws.....
Ohio State High Patrol Retweeted

Remember, roadways can be hazardous when it’s raining and lightning can be dangerous too! Check out this lightning strike caught on @OSHP dashcam.

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PA Department of Transportation

Today is #FridayThe13th – a day where many unlucky things can happen. Don't press your luck! Drive safely today and every day.

penndot.gov/safety

On an unlucky day like Friday the 13th, don't press your luck.
- Walking under ladders
- Spilling salt
- Texting while driving

PennDOT.gov/safety
Safety first!

Traffic stops on the side of the highway can be dangerous.

Trooper Melius brought this motorist to her patrol car to keep both of them safe.
Yesterday, Curtis “Drew” Woodard, Highway Patrol — Bowie, received a Lifesaving Award for his actions on March 16, while working with the Special Operations Group and U.S. Border Patrol Agents. Together, they rescued a six-month-old and her mother from the Rio Grande River.

All hands on deck approach for Operation STOP. @THPNashville Captain Griffin, Lt Cherry, Trp Moss, Trp Hoyt checking CMV’s this morning on I-65 in Robertson Co. @CVSA @FMCSA @TNHighwayPatrol @TNDepotofSafety #SafetyFirst
Trooper Fleming and Voss are just finishing annual bus inspection for @sestrojans

Buckle up, every trip, every time. Make this year safe and memorable all year.

#TuesdayTrivia Passing on two lane roadways in Washington State.... What do the center yellow lines mean? Everyone should know this so here is a friendly reminder. If you want to read the RCW’s yourself, check out 46.61.110 and 46.61.120!
@GETGroupNA's Dir. of Product Dev. for Mobile ID, David Kelts, CIPT joined the @D2KSL show on @ksinewsradio to talk about #mDL technology and what it means for #Utah. Listen to the interview to hear more from Kelts about GET #MobileID: bit.ly/3CDwiZn #GETtheFutureNow

VermontDMV

@VTDMV

The hash-marked sections next to handicapped-accessible parking spots are not meant for short-term parking but to provide space for people to enter and exit their cars with a wheelchair.

A Wheelchair Driver’s WORST NIGHTMARE

110 views

0:01 / 0:39

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